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# Choice Rhododendrons and Azaleas



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## RHODODENDRONS — AZALEAS

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### SOIL AND LOCATION

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The first question that anyone who wants to start the cultivation of Rhododendrons or Azaleas should ask himself, is whether the soil of his garden is suitable to those plants.

There is only one substance whose presence in any quantity in the soil can be said to render their cultivation impossible, and that is lime, which is alkaline. Practically every other soil, by means of labor and the addition of fertilizing material, can be made to suit them. In a state of nature these shrubs appear most frequently to inhabit regions possessing a peaty soil, but there is no doubt that a light, sandy, well-drained loam meets their needs as well, if not better.

In trying to follow nature as a guide it is well to remember that plants cannot always secure the soil or situations best suited to them. In the struggle for existence they most often adapt themselves to what they get. We may see some very fine Rhododendrons growing in other than peaty soil. I only mention this to support my belief that it is not necessary to imitate nature too closely.

The most difficult soil to adopt to growing Rhododendrons is one of a heavy clayey nature; one that gets cold and wet in winter and hard and subject to cracking in summer. Such a soil must be trenched to a depth of two feet and thoroughly broken up, adding well decayed leaves, peat, sandy soil or any other material available which may help to lighten it.

Stagnant water is fatal to Rhododendrons and must be drained if the surplus water does not readily get away.

A dry hot soil—one of a light sandy nature lying on a gravelly sub-soil—is also in need of improvement before it is fit for many of the better Rhododendrons.

On such a spot the aim should be to provide a soil, to a depth of about 2 feet, of a nature which will not lose its moisture too quickly, for there is nothing (with the exception of a limey or alkaline soil) which Rhododendrons detest more than dryness at the roots. To improve such a soil will depend much on circumstances. It should be turned over to the required depth, and anything in the nature of a hard pan beneath thoroughly broken up. Even if nothing can be added to improve its quality, the mere stirring up of the soil will quickly increase its capacity to retain moisture.

Soil of a sounder, somewhat heavier nature may be obtained and mixed with the lighter one. The addition of well-decayed leaves is always an advantage. There is nothing a Rhododendron likes better.

It may here be mentioned that when planting Rhododendrons a very important point is to make the soil absolutely firm about the roots. The lighter the soil, the firmer it should be made.

As to soil conditions, I hope I have made it clear that—providing lime is absent—there are few soils that cannot be made to suit at least the more vigorous kinds of Rhododendrons and Azaleas. A few species of Rhododendrons will succeed on limey soil, but these are very rare.

After the question of soil, the position in the garden best fitted for Rhododendrons is the matter to be considered.

The Rhododendrons of the hybrid type are very hardy and accommodating, and one need not be very particular in finding a place for them. If no other spot can be found for them, they succeed well enough fully exposed to the sun, although if the weather should be bright and hot during the flowering season, there is no doubt that in such a place the blossoms do not last long, and neither will the growth be so vigorous.

The ideal place for Rhododendrons of the evergreen type, especially the large-leaved species, is undoubtedly one where trees provide a certain amount of shade, which is especially beneficial if it is cast over the plants in the hot middle hours of the day. For those that grow and flower early in the season, protection from the early morning sun is also desirable. Bright mornings frequently follow cold frosty nights in the spring, and a screen from the early rays of the sun will sometimes prevent the rapid thawing of flower-buds and young growths.

Besides the protection which trees give to Rhododendrons, from a cultural point of view, they have the additional value of greatly enhancing the beauty and scenic effects of the plants when in bloom. Fortunate is the gardener, therefore, who, in addition to the right kind of soil, has on his Rhododendron plot some suitable trees distributed to give shelter and shade.

Small-leaved evergreen species bear sunshine better than the large-leaved ones, which is to be expected; since they often occur in nature, covering stretches of treeless mountain country where the only protection they get from the sun is given by cloud and mist.

Many species of Rhododendrons and Azaleas are well adapted for the rock garden. Positions may undoubtedly be found in the average rock garden where a certain limited selection of dwarf Rhododendrons and Azaleas can be suitably placed.

The usual recommendation of shade for Rhododendrons may generally be disregarded where typical alpine species are concerned, and if sufficient surface mulching is provided, full exposure to sun will be found beneficial in producing compactness of growth and freedom of flower. Advantage being merely taken of such comparative shade as will be available on slopes facing to the North, and providing for certain well-defined species such shelter from mid-day sun as may be found desirable. Protection from cutting winds is naturally necessary, and this may be overcome by a few well-placed wind-resisting conifers or trees.

Where the general use of alpine Rhododendrons is concerned, no serious cultural problem presents itself. Given a reasonable depth of good loam with a generous mixture of leaf-mould, success is practically assured. Periodic top dressing with similar material will prove an important factor in maintaining healthy growth and act as a mulch to conserve moisture and provide the cool root-run so essential to the development of surface feeding fibres. Little or no regular pruning is necessary, but an occasional shortening of irregular shoots will tend towards shapeliness of the plants. After flowering, it is important to pick off the seed pods to enable the plants to form flower buds for next season.

No finer show is made by any plants than Azaleas. I have in mind here the deciduous Azaleas. With the exception of a few species they may be planted in full exposure, and never lose their brilliancy of color, though the flowers will not last as long as when planted in partly shaded positions.

There are quite a number of species and varieties of Azaleas. Many of them are quite distinct and attractive plants, each having a delicate grace and quality of flowers and color, filling the air with fragrance.

The autumn foliage of many of the deciduous kinds is beautiful beyond words. All of these plants are of great value, either for open gardens or for woodland planting.

An Azalea garden on a liberal scale, with the addition of flowering trees, such as Magnolias, Cherries, Flowering Crab, etc., can be made to give a most beautiful spring effect.

Azaleas can be used to great advantage to give color in long vistas which are framed with shrubs; the Azaleas in this type of planting being in bold groups of one color leading to another, with pale shades of yellow and pink in the foreground and the more vivid colors in the distance. The autumn tint of their foliage is especially useful and a great feature.

I have already stated that in general Rhododendrons and Azaleas dislike dryness at the roots. If the drainage is satisfactory, and no lime present, a soil and position that provides a continuous and adequate supply of moisture is the most essential need in their successful cultivation.



*And in the woods a fragrance rare  
Of wild azaleas fills the air,  
And richly tangled overhead  
We see their blossoms sweet and red.*

Dora Read Goodale

*Kalmiopsis  
Leacheanum*

*Nursery grown*

*Small plants \$1.00 each*

*Larger plants \$2.00 to \$5.00*

## RHODODENDRONS HYBRID

**ALICE**

Deep pink, fading to pale rose. \$1.50 each.

**CARACTACUS**

Dark crimson. \$1.50 each.

**KISSENA**

Beautiful lavender. \$1.50 each.

**PINK PEARL**

Large flesh colored pink clusters. \$1.50 each and up.

**ROSEUM ELEGANS**

Good clear lavender pink. \$1.50 and up.

**ROSEUM SUPERBUM**

Soft rose. \$1.50 each and up.

**WHITE PEARL**

Slightly blush, changing to pure white; very choice. \$2.50 each.

**HYBRID SEEDLINGS**

Very fine, mixed colors, bushy plants with flower buds. \$1.00 to \$2.50 each.

### RHODODENDRON SPECIES

**AMBIGIUM (Triflorum Series)**

Flowers yellow, very free flowering, hardy. 2-year-old plants 75c each.

**AUGUSTINII (Triflorum Series)**

A very beautiful and floriferous species. The flowers vary much in color from pale lilac to pure blue. 2-year-old plants \$1.00 each.

**CALOPHYTUM (Fortunei Series)**

A strong growing shrub up to about 15 ft., with large clusters of pink flowers. 2-year-old plants \$1.00 each.

**CAROLINIANUM (Carolinianum Series)**

Forms a neat bush 3-4 ft. high with pinkish flowers. 4-year-old plants \$1.00 each.

**CATAWBIENSE (Ponticum Series)**

A native of the Eastern States. 6 to 10 ft. high, with rose-purple flowers. Very hardy. 4-year-old plants \$1.00 each.

**CHARTOPHYLLUM (Triflorum Series)**

A robust shrub 8-9 ft. high and through. Pale purple or rose-purple flowers with red spots. Very floriferous. A desirable shrub. 2-year-old plants \$1.00 each.

**DAURICUM (Dauricum Series)**

A semi-deciduous species, eventually 8 ft. in height with bright rose-purple flowers in January-February. 5-year-old plants \$1.00 and up.

**DAVIDSONIANUM (Triflorum Series)**

Very handsome in its best forms. Will grow 8 feet or more in height and has white flowers flushed with pink. 2-year-old plants \$1.25 each.

**DECORUM (Fortunei Series)**

A shrub 12-20 ft. in height with white slightly sweet scented, sometimes shell-pink flowers. 2-year-old plants \$1.25 each.

**FORTUNEI (Fortunei Series)**

One of the hardest Chinese Rhododendrons. Its fragrant pale pinky-lilac flowers are quite attractive. A plant well worth growing. 2-year-old plants \$1.25 each.

**KEISKII (Triflorum Series)**

A dwarf-growing Japanese species. flowers pale yellow, suitable for rock gardens. 2-year-old plants \$1.00 each.

**METTERNICHII (Ponticum Series)**

A dense habited Japanese species with pink flowers. 3-year-old plants 75c each.

**MINUS (Carolinianum Series)**

Very compact, neat habit, pink flowers. 4-year-old plants 75c to \$1.50 each.

**MYRTIFOLIA**

Well adapted for the rock garden, with pink flowers. 3-year-old plants \$1.00 each.

**OLEOFOLIA (Virgatum Series)**

Charming small shrub, like its ally R. Racemosum, producing its pink flowers when quite young, suitable for rock gardens. 2-year-old plants \$1.00 each.

**RACEMOSUM (Virgatum Series)**

A beautiful dwarf species with small pink flowers in profusion. 2-year-old plants 75c to \$1.25 each.

**RACEMOSUM (59717 Rock X Mucronulatum)**

A new Rhododendron with rose-pink flowers, very early. 2-year-old plants \$1.00 each.

**WILSONII**

A very compact dwarf Rhododendron with lavender-rose flowers. 3-year-old plants \$1.00 to \$1.50 each.

**YUNANENSE (Triflorum Series)**

One of the most attractive of the Triflorums, introduced from China. It eventually reaches 10-12 ft. in height, with pale pink flowers, and is worth growing in any Rhododendron collection. Very hardy. 4-year-old plants \$1.00 to \$2.50 each.

## AZALEAS HARDY AND SEMI-HARDY

### \*ALTACLARENSIS

5-6 ft. This is one of the finest of the Hardy Azaleas. The flower trusses, which are large and beautifully built (often measuring six inches in diameter), come in the most beautiful shades of orange, and are delightfully fragrant. This variety is unsurpassed in landscaping for its masses of gorgeous orange colors in the Spring, and its luxurious foliage, turning almost to a bright red in the Fall. Blooming size \$1.00 to \$7.50 each; smaller plants 50c each.

### AMOENA

3 ft. A fine evergreen Hardy Azalea with semi-double purplish-red blooms. 50c and \$1.00 each.

### \*ARBORESCENS

5-15 ft. A fine plant, belonging to the Appalachian Mountains, has sweetly scented white to pink flowers in June. Will grow 9 ft. or more. \$1.00 to \$2.00 each.

### \*CALENDULACEA (Flame Azalea)

6 ft. and over. One of our finest native Azaleas in colors ranging from pale yellow to a deep orange red. \$1.00 to \$2.00 each.

### HINODEGIRI

A dwarf evergreen Japanese Azalea blooming in early Spring with beautiful bright red flowers. This plant thrives best in a mild climate. 50c to \$2.50 each.

### \*LOUISE HUNNEWELL

A very fine deciduous Azalea, much like *A. Mollis*, with flowers in shades of yellow to orange. Blooming size \$1.00 to \$2.50 each.

### \*J. C. VAN TOL

5 ft. A newly introduced variety of Azalea since the federal embargo stopped importation of nursery stock. This variety is an improvement made on *Azalea Mollis* by Mr. J. C. van Tol, of Boskoop, Holland, and has proven of great merit to the flower garden. Blooming size 75c to \$3.00 each.

### KAEMPFERI (Torch Azalea)

6-12 ft. Noted for its hardiness and fire-red flowers. This Azalea is a treasure to any garden. 50c and \$1.00 each.

### MACRANTHA

A medium-growing evergreen type with wonderful deep salmon blossoms of great size. Single bloom. Will do well in a mild climate. \$1.00 each.

### MACRANTHA FLORO-PLENO

Like above but with semi-double blossoms. \$1.00 to \$1.50 each.

### MAXWELLII

An evergreen with large carmine flowers, slightly fragrant. Very choice. \$1.00 each.

### \*MOLLIS

5 ft. A rather slow-growing free-flowering shrub from Japan and China, with a variety of beautiful colors—yellow, orange and salmon-pink being the prevailing colors. It is very hardy and, being of slow growth, may be grouped in the foreground of a mass of the taller kinds of Azaleas, Rhododendrons or other tall-growing shrubs. It is also very effective in mass planting, and highly useful for the rockery. Blooming size 50c each and up.

### \*NUDIFLORA (Pinxterbloom)

10 ft. or more. Flowers from white to clear pink. Very fragrant. \$1.00 to \$5.00 each.

### \*OCCIDENTALIS (Southern Oregon Azalea)

10-15 ft. A very valuable tall shrub, with masses of white or bluish-white flowers in late May. Very fragrant. Will do best in partial shade. Blooming size 50c each and up.

### \*PONTICA HYBRID (Ghent Hybrids)

Words cannot describe the beauty of this hardy Azalea. Its colors are very similar to that of *A. Mollis*, but more fragrant. It comes in bloom when most other deciduous Azaleas are through blooming. Blooming size \$1.00 to \$2.50 each.

### POUKHANENSIS (Korean Azalea)

A beautiful variety. The purple-lilac color of the flowers is unique among the Azaleas. Perfectly hardy. \$1.00 each.

### \*PONTICA

6-7 ft. (Often called Yellow Honeysuckle.) A very sturdy grower with sweet scented flowers. 75c each and up.

### \*ROSEUM

A very hardy species with bright pink flowers. \$1.00 each.

### ROSAEFLORUM (Balsaminaeflorum)

Double salmon-pink flowers; requires a sheltered position in the rock garden. \$1.00 each.

### \*SCHLIPPENBACHI (Royal Azalea)

A deciduous densely branched shrub, about 6 ft. high. The flowers are pale rose spotted with red-brown. A very fine shrub. Mr. Wilson, in speaking of the Diamond Mountains in Korea, says: "In June, these regions are a wonderful sight, with literally miles and miles of the purest pink from the millions of flowers of this Azalea." \$1.50 to \$2.50 each.

### \*VASEYI (Pinkshell Azalea)

6-15 ft. This Azalea is perhaps the most profuse bloomer of all the native species, and is the more conspicuous as its white, pink or rose-colored flowers appear in early May before the foliage. Autumn usually turns the leaves a deep, dark crimson, greatly enhancing its beauty and value. Best at home in a moist and shady situation. 50c to \$5.00 each.

**YA YEGIRI**

An orange or flame-red flowering evergreen variety with a dwarf habit of growth. Ideal for the rock garden. Strong bushes \$1.00 each.

(\*) Deciduous plants.

**SPECIAL ITEMS****ANDROMEDA JAPONICA**

A charming evergreen shrub from Japan, with large clusters of creamy-white flowers in early spring. Fine bushy plants 50c and 75c each; larger plants \$2.50 each.

**DAPHNE CNEORUM (Rock Daphne)**

A most beautiful low hardy shrub with fragrant pink blossoms. Fine for the rock garden. \$1.00 each.

Following is a list of sturdy 2-year-old plants of choice Hybrid Rhododendrons and Azaleas grown from cuttings. These plants may be set out in the garden or some spot where they can be given special care for a year or two, before using them in your landscape planting.

Special price on quantity orders.

For your convenience and ours, please order the following by number:

**RHODODENDRONS**

R- 1	Pale pink orchid, yellow eye, frilled.....	Each \$0.75
R- 4	Pale orchid, frilled.....	" .75
R- 5	Pink orchid, brownish blotch.....	" .75
R- 6	Pink orchid, yellowish blotch, large flower.....	" .75
R- 7	Red, black eye.....	" .75
R- 8	Early pink.....	" .75
R-11	Excellent pink, late.....	" .75
R-12	Large white, yellow blotch (Mme. Masson).....	" .75
R-14	Delicate pink, coming out, changing to white.....	" .75
R-28	Early lavender, frilled.....	" .75
R-30	Beautiful, late pink.....	" .75
R-31	Wonderful pink-like Campbell Phlox.....	" .75
R-32	Deep pink, late.....	" .75
R-33	Red, extra fine.....	" .75
R-35	Late orchid, large head.....	" .75
R-38	Pale lavender, purple blotch, late.....	" .75
R-45	Finest late lavender.....	" .75
R-46	Pink orchid, heavy bloomer.....	" .75
R-47	Red, heavy black blotch.....	" .75
R-51	Red, yellowish eye.....	" .75
R-59	Pale pink, heavy dark blotch, late.....	" .75
R-60	Transparent pale pink, early.....	" .75
R-80	Alice.....	" .75
R-81	White Pearl.....	" 1.00
R-82	Roseum Superbum.....	" .75
R-83	Album Elegans, blush white.....	" .75
R-84	Pink Pearl.....	" .75
R-85	Purpurium Grandiflora, purple.....	" .75

**AZALEAS (EVERGREEN)**

A-1	Benigiri, deep pink .....	Each \$0.25
A-2	Flame Creeper, very dwarf, extra choice.....	" 1.00
A-3	Hexe, hose in hose, red.....	" .25
A-4	Hinodegiri, crimson.....	" .25
A-5	Macrantha, large salmon red.....	" .25
A-6	Macrantha Flora Pleno, semi-double, deep salmon-pink.....	" .25
A-7	Maxwellii, carmine flower.....	" .50
A-8	Obtusum, pink variety.....	" .35

**INFORMATION**

Our nursery stock is of high-grade quality.

Prices are made to fit the quality of the stock sent out. Discriminating buyers now realize that the greatest value of nursery stock is underground. Frequent transplanting and handling specimens with adequate burlapped balls means success and quick results. The best is always the cheapest.

All shipments will be sent by Express unless required postage is included with remittance for orders.

Customary clause of non-warranty applies to all stock listed in this folder.

**VAN VEEN NURSERY**

**3127 S. E. 43rd Ave. - Portland, Oregon**  
(Three Blocks North of Powell Blvd.)

*"God gave all men all earth to love,  
But since our hearts are small,  
Ordained for each one spot should prove  
Beloved over all;  
That as He watched creation's birth  
So we, in God-like mood,  
May of our love create our earth  
And see that it is good."*